

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**RS23779C1**

Currently, funding for alternative education is established for 7th through 12th grades. A number of school districts have 6th through 8th grade middle school configurations. Research has shown that smaller class sizes benefit at-risk students as is evidenced by the 12:1 support ratio for funding alternative schools. It is important to identify at-risk students early and provide intense interventions. Alternative school funding for 6th graders would allow schools to identify and provide interventions for students one year earlier and help at-risk students to be more prepared for 7th grade. Extending funding and services to 6th grade students will allow school districts using the middle level concept to utilize current structure of interventions and systems already found to be successful for 7th and 8th grade students to 6th grade students who are at risk.

FISCAL NOTE

The fiscal impact of adding 6th grade to the alternative education funding as currently established with the 12:1 ratio would be three thousand fifty-seven dollars (\$3,057) per student. Currently there are two hundred thirty-three (233) seventh graders and three hundred twenty-nine (329) eighth graders attending alternative middle schools in Idaho. Funding as many sixth graders as seventh graders in the alternative setting would cost seven hundred twelve thousand dollars (\$712,000).

If passed, this legislation would become effective for the 2016-2017 fiscal year.

Contact:

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Statement of Purpose / Fiscal Note**H0300**